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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1938.

T. L. WORMALD, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Population (estimated 1938) - -	8,902
Area of District in Acres - -	45,064

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Darlington Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my 8th annual report as Medical Officer of Health on the Vital Statistics and Sanitation of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

STATISICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of Rural District in Acres	45,064
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	8,902
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,630
Rateable Value	£48,924
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£203 17s. 0d.

The chief industries are, agriculture in general, iron smelting at Middleton-St.-George (these works are still idle), iron works at Dinsdale, lime burning at Ayeliffe, and sand and gravel quarrying at Bishopton.

The number of unemployed persons in the district at the end of 1938 was 86.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Response during the year to the immunisation scheme has practically been confined to Middleton-St.-George, where several cases tended to make the public " diphtheria conscious."

The advisability of taking advantage of the scheme has been stressed in all cases where the disease has occurred.

DEATH RATE.

The death rate for the year is slightly above the rate for the district for last year and is substantially above the rate for England and Wales for the same year.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate is slightly above that for the district for last year and slightly above the rate for England and Wales for the same year.

Infantile Death Rate.

There is a decrease in the Infantile Death Rate being 7·11 below the previous year but 13·66 above England and Wales for the same year. It must be remembered however, that in a district with a small population and consequently few births, a huge difference in the rate is effected by two or three deaths, the average for the last three years being only 44·7.

To a very large extent also the increased Infantile Death Rate is due to the high incidence of premature births, in one instance twins.

Maternal Mortality.

I am again pleased to report that there has been an absence of deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or from any other cause associated with child-birth. This is the fourth year in succession that there have been no deaths from these causes.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever of which there were 15 cases, were evenly distributed throughout the district and were generally of a mild nature. Removal of these cases to hospital was only effected where nursing at home was not practicable or where there was any likely infection of food.

Diphtheria.

26 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year as against 23 cases last year. There was one mild case among immunised children. A minor epidemic occurred at Dinsdale Park School.

Influenza.

One death occurred from Influenza as against seven last year.

Tuberculosis.

Five cases of Tuberculosis were notified. The following table gives the age periods at which the cases were notified and also the mortality rate from this disease :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	1	1	1	—	2	1	—

Parishes in which Deaths Occurred :—

Archdeacon Newton	2
Aycliffe	16
Barmpton	1
Bishopton	2
Blackwell	3
Brafferton	2
Burdon Great	2
Coatham Mundeville	3
Coniscliffe, High	2
Coniscliffe, Low	2
Denton	2
Dinsdale, Low	0
Great Stainton	1
Heighington	13
Houghton-le-Side	0
Hurworth	18
Little Stainton	1
Middleton-St.-George	35
Neasham	3
Piercebridge	5
Redworth	0
Sadberge	4
Summerhouse	2
Walworth	1
Whessoe	4
	124

The following statistics have been based on the Registrar-General's estimated resident Population of the district for the year, 1937, viz. :—8,902 :

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. 1938	Comparison R.D.C. 1937	Comparison England and Wales 1938
Live Births	Legitimate	132	74	58			
	Illegitimate	4	1	3			
		136	75	61	15·27	13·74	15·1
Still Births	Legitimate	8	3	5			
	Illegitimate	1	1	—			
		9	4	5	1·01	·11	·60
Total Live and Still Births....		145	79	66	16·28	13·85	15·70

CANCER.

23 deaths occurred from Cancer as against 10 last year. None of the deaths resulted, so far as can be ascertained from any industrial conditions. No case of Cancer was detected among the tar workers in the district, where a bi-annual medical inspection of the employees is carried out. Of the 23 deaths from this disease 11 occurred in persons over 70 years of age.

PNEUMONIA.

Seven cases of Pneumonia were notified and 10 deaths occurred from Pneumonia.

For several years past the incidence of pneumonia has remained much the same and is evenly divided amongst the various parishes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED :—

Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	4
,, Other Forms	1
Scarlet Fever	15
Diphtheria	26
Pneumonia, all forms	7
Erysipelas	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Poliomyelitis	—
	55

Age Groups at which Deaths occurred :—

Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-25 yrs.	25-30 yrs.	30-40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60-70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.	Over 80 yrs
10	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	7	19	31	34	15

Death Rate per 1,000 population :—

				Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	
Deaths	124	61	63	13·92	13·29	11·6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

	D.R.D.C. 1938	D.R.D.C. 1937	England and Wales 1938
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil	·86
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil	2·11
	Nil	Nil	2·97

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	9	8	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	9	8	1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :—

	D.R.D.C. 1938	D.R.D.C. 1937	England and Wales 1983
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	66·66	73·77	53
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	66·44	79·64	—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	—	—	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—

TABLE SHEWING CAUSES OF DEATHS AT ALL AGES :—

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	–	–
Measles	–	–
Searlet Fever	–	–
Whooping Cough	–	–
Diphtheria	–	–
Influenza	–	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	–
Cerebro-spinal Fever	–	–
Tubereulosis of Respiratory System	–	2
Other tubereulous diseases	1	–
Syphilis	1	–
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis....	1	–
Cancer, malignant disease	10	13
Diabetes....	1	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	3	4
Heart Disease	18	19
Aneurysm	–	–
Other eirculatory disease	2	8
Bronchitis	–	–
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	6
Other respiratory diseases	–	–
Peptie Uleer	1	–
Diarrhœa, ete. (under 2 years)	–	–
Appendieitis	–	–
Cirrhosis of Liver	–	–
Other diseases of liver, etc.	–	–
Other digestive diseases	2	2
Acute and ehronic nephritis	5	1
Puerperal sepsis	–	–
Other puerperal eauses	–	–
Congenital debility, premature births, malformations, etc.	4	–
Senility	–	–
Suieide	–	–
Other violenee	2	–
Other defined diseases	4	4
Illdefined or not known	1	–
	61	63

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health :—
T. L. Wormald, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :—W. J. Pallister, Cert. R. San. Inst.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :—
R. E. Dunn, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
commenced 1st February, 1937.

Hospitals.

The Darlington Rural District Council has an agreement with the Darlington Corporation for the removal and maintenance of cases of infectious diseases in the Darlington Corporation Isolation Hospital. The accommodation was ample and all cases, where application was made, were taken by the hospital.

During the year the following cases were removed to hospital :—

Scarlet Fever	11 cases.
Diphtheria	12 cases.
(one to Easington Hospital).	
Erysipelas	1 case.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

As stated in my Report for 1937, the Council gave instructions for a bore hole to be sunk to provide a wholesome supply of water for the Village of Great Stainton in place of the existing supply from the Public Well and Private Wells, the supplies from which were not by any means satisfactory. A bore hole has been sunk to a depth of 226 feet and two feeders at various depths on a test pumping gave a yield of 540 gallons per hour over a week's continuous pumping test. An analysis of the water revealed that the supply is of a high order of purity.

During the year the water supply at Heighington was affected by two droughts, one in May and another in August. An enquiry was held on the 2nd November, 1938, by a Ministry of Health Inspector for consent to borrow £7,245 for works of water supply to the contributory places of Heighington and Houghton-le-Side. The enquiry was adjourned to give an opportunity for the Durham County Water Board to ascertain if they could afford a supply by an extension of their main from Shildon.

A small extension was made to the mains in Heighington Village to provide a pipes supply to several houses in the South-West corner of the village.

An analysis of the water from the Public Well at Bishopton showed the supply not to be of wholesome quality. The Tees Valley Water Board's main runs through the Village but in many cases it is some considerable distance from the houses. The Tees Valley Water Board have been asked to lay branch mains to bring the supply within reasonable distance of the houses at present taking their supply from the Public Well.

The Public Supply from the bore hole at Ayeliffe having failed, the Council received sanction to a loan for the extension of the water main at Coatham Mundeville, which is a metered supply from the Tees Valley Water Board and the extension was completed at the back end of the year.

Samples of water were taken from 4 private supplies, all of which were unsatisfactory.

In all other respects the supplies in general to the district were satisfactory and abundant.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the sewering of the development at Beaumont Hill in the Parish of Whessoe.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 15 E.C.'s and 7 privy-middens were converted to water carriage under Sec. 47, Public Health Act, 1936.

Three conversions to water carriage were carried out without the aid of a contribution from the Council.

The estimated number of each type in the district is as follows :—

Water Closets	....	1,128
Ash Closets	....	723
Ash-privies	....	715

Public Cleansing.

The number of parishes where public scavenging is in force is 18.

Public scavenging was put into operation in the Village of Great Stainton during the year.

The work is carried out by direct labour.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1937.

	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				
Dwelling-houses & schools—				
Foul Conditions	3	—	1	
Structural Defects	17	—	12	
Overcrowding	1	—	1	
Lodging-houses	—	—	—	
Dairies and Milkshops	8	—	7	
Cowsheds	32	—	29	
Bakehouses	—	—	—	
Slaughter-houses	—	—	—	
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—	
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	1	—	1	
Waterclosets	1	—	1	
Defective Yard Paving	—	—	—	
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps	—	—	—	
No Disconnection from Sewers	1	—	1	
Other Faults	2	—	1	
Water Supply	3	—	1	
Pigsties	2	—	2	
Animals Improperly Kept	1	—	—	
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	
Smoke Nuisances	1	—	1	
Other Nuisances—				
Nuisance from private Sewage Disposal Plant	4	—	4	
Totals	77	—	62	

	No.	Remarks.
II. Water, Food and Drugs.		
Samples of water taken for analysis	8	
Samples of water condemned as unfit for use	5	
Seizures of unwholesome food	2	
Convictions for exposing or selling unwholesome food	—	
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	—	
Samples of food and drugs found adulterated	—	
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of infectious bedding stoved or destroyed	1	
Houses disinfected after infectious disease....	26	
Schools do. do.	—	
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions for do. do.	—	
IV. General.		
Number of new houses erected during year	35	
Number of such houses occupied during year	34	
Ashpit-privies converted into ash-closets	—	
Do. do. water-closets	7	
Ash-closets do. do.	19	
Total number of water-closets in district	1128	
Do. ash-closets do.	723	
Do. ash-pit privies do.	715	

Schools.

No schools were closed during the year on account of infectious disease.

Every school in the district has a piped supply of wholesome water laid on with the exception of Great Stainton School.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the area is satisfactory.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	21
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	40
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	5
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	13
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	14

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	—
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners .... —

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed (not demolished) on an undertaking by the owner 1

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... —

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 25

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 25

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 125

B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (abated during year) 1

C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 60

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 334

D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .... —

E. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider if desirable to report .... —

HOUSING.

A review of the houses shown to be overcrowded under the Housing survey reveals that many of the houses are not now overcrowded by reason of removals.

Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926 have been approved for 3 houses, and 5 houses have been completed during the year.

The total number of houses reconditioned under this Act at the end of December was 77, and work is in progress on 2 houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

A bi-annual inspection has been made of all the dairies and cowsheds in the district and the following is a summary of the work carried out as the result of such visits :—

Cowsheds.	
New Cowsheds	7
New Floors	14
Ventilation and Lighting	12
Dirty Cattle	10
	43

Dairies.	
New Milkhouses	12
Floors	12
Ventilation and Lighting	3
	27

The total number of "accredited" licence holders is 50, an increase of 3 on last year's figure.

Two producers are licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested milk. One retailer licence has been granted for " Pasteurized " milk and three retailer licences for " Accredited " milk, and one retailer licence for Tuberculin Tested.

Of the Bacteriological examinations made by outside authorities, those from 18 premises were unsatisfactory. After visits were made, further samples were taken in every case and proved satisfactory.

For the purpose of " Accredited " licences six samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There were 2 licensed slaughter houses on the register, one of which has been granted during the year, and there are 7 registered slaughter houses.

These have been regularly inspected.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

There are 15 licensed slaughter-men on the register under the above Act.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The number of factories on the register is 63, two being of a temporary nature in connection with constructional works in the district.

These premises have been inspected, and those that have been found unclean have been brought up to the required standard.

I wish, in conclusion, to acknowledge the great assistance given at all times by the Surveyor, Mr. Pallister and his assistant Mr. R. E. Dunn, and also my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and Mr. Thompson, the Clerk, for their co-operation and approval of suggestions made in endeavouring to maintain a satisfactory state of health in the District.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. L. WORMALD,

Medical Officer of Health.